

WATER PROTECTION DIVISION SALIENT ISSUES

For the week ending July 10, 2015

Read this week's [Healthy Waters Blog](#) and [Story of Progress](#)

DC Proposes Changes to Well Construction, Maintenance and Abandonment Regulations - District of Columbia Department of the Environment (DC DOE) proposes several modifications to its municipal code regarding well construction, maintenance and abandonment. The regulations cover many different types of wells, and include those used for injection and potable use. Staff in the Ground Water and Enforcement Branch and the Drinking Water Branch contributed a number of comments to ensure that wells for current and future underground sources of drinking water will be protected, and wells that are subject to either the Underground Injection Control or the Public Water System program meet the appropriate Safe Drinking Water Act requirements in addition to any DC DOE requirements. The comments were submitted by the Office of Drinking Water and Source Water Protection.

Lisa Donahue, 215-814-2062

OIA Wastewater Optimization Team Continues Assisting Local Community - The Borough of Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania has an approximately 50,000 gallon per day wastewater treatment plant that was not designed to remove Total Nitrogen (TN). The Borough will have a TN limit on their new permit coming up in January, 2016. The regional team from the Office of Infrastructure and Assistance has been working with the Borough staff and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) Technical Assistance staff to see if the plant can achieve TN removal. Nitrogen removal works by nitrification, which is when the activated sludge portion (bugs) of wastewater plants remove nitrogen by first oxidizing ammonia to nitrate; then denitrification, which is the reduction of nitrate to nitrogen gas. The whole process reduces total nitrogen in the effluent. The denitrification step requires a carbon/energy source for the bugs to reduce the nitrate to nitrogen gas. Some wastewater plants need to add a supplemental carbon source to achieve denitrification.

On July 2, the regional team met with the Borough Sewer Department manager to follow up on previous process control training and discuss their nitrogen removal issues. The Borough staff created an anoxic, or-air zone, by baffling off a section of their aerobic tank. They were able to nitrify, but not denitrify. The team conducted an experiment of adding a carbon source to achieve TN removal (nitrate reduction) in the plant lab. The experiment was successful. After 1.5 hours of detention time, the nitrate was reduced from approximately 50mg/L to approximately 3mg/L, with the addition of a carbon source. The next step for the Borough is to determine what type of carbon source that will be added - waste sugar/molasses or a chemical – and how to store and dose the carbon source.

Jim Kern, 215-814-5788; Martin Matlin, 215-814-5789; Walter Higgins, 215-814-5476

Healthy Waters Blog Quarterly Readership Update - During the third quarter of FY 2015, total page views for the Healthy Waters for EPA's Mid-Atlantic Region blog were down 23% as compared to the same period in FY14. EPA's Office of Web Communications (OWC) has attributed this drop – experienced by all EPA blogs – to a change in the Agency-wide email delivery service that occurred in May. OWC is working to correct the problem. Despite this issue, the blog is still accessed from 55 countries around the world. Tablet and mobile access of the blog continues to increase. The most-read blogs posted during the third quarter of FY15 were: [The Safe Drinking Water Act: A Playbook for Public Health Protection](#); [A Big Step for Clean Water](#); [The Promise of Permeable Pavement](#); [Making a Difference through Green Streets Funding](#); and [Feed the Barrel: A tale of how small actions can change the world](#). **Jennie Saxe, 215-814-5806**

Lower Susquehanna Source Water Protection Partnership Meeting – On June 30, a regional representative from the Source Water Protection team attended the bi-annual Lower Susquehanna Source Water Protection (SWP) Partnership Meeting at the Susquehanna River Basin Commission office in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The well-attended meeting focused on defining a purpose and direction for the Partnership through facilitated discussion. Regional examples of SWP efforts were also presented, including new source water quality monitoring technologies in use at Pennsylvania American Water, and the on-the-ground activities of Eastern Lancaster County SWP Collaborative’s agriculture subcommittee. The Susquehanna River Basin Commission’s spill tracking efforts in response to the Miller Chemical Fire was also discussed. **Megan Keegan, 215-814-5494**

	<i>UPCOMING TRAININGS, EVENTS, WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES</i>
July 9	Schuylkill Action Network Planning meeting regional office Beth Garcia, 215-814-5243
July 14	Schuylkill Action Network Strategic Planning Listening Session Bartram’s Garden, Philadelphia, PA Beth Garcia, 215-814-5243
July 14	Chester Water Authority Meeting Source Water Protection Plan for the Octoraro Reservoir Watershed Quarryville, PA Megan Keegan, 215-814-5494
July 21-23	National Area-Wide Optimization Meeting and the National Optimization Leadership Team Meeting Cincinnati, OH Alysa Zirilli, 215-814-5733; Enid Chiu, 215-814-3219
August 3-5	Water Works Operators Association of Pennsylvania Annual Conference Presentations by Patti Kay Wisniewski State College, PA Patti Kay Wisniewski, 215-814-5668
August 6-8	Mid-Atlantic Volunteer Monitoring Workshop Shenandoah University, Winchester, VA Bill Richardson, 215-814-5675

Have you blogged today?

***"The Bottom Line: Why Permeable Pavements
Are Good for the Environment and Your Pocket"***

by Jeanna Henry

<http://blog.epa.gov/blog/category/healthywaters/>

Related Tweets of the Week can be found at: <http://twitter.com/eparegion3>

Stories of Progress in Achieving Healthy Waters

URBAN WATERS GRANT SUPPORTS CHESTER'S GREEN PLAN

Have a story to tell?